

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA  
Synod Council  
Haugo Room, Augustana University  
Sioux Falls, SD  
March 17, 2017**

Members present: Tim Olson, Rev. Jackie Braun, Doug Olawsky, Rev. Chris Strohm, Rev. Lon Kvanli, Jon Schmitz, Charles Engelstad, Rev. Randy Koeller, Carie Knutson, Jody Johnson, Dennis Thompson, Rev. David Piper, Rev. Greg Myrmoe, Robert Nelson, Joyce Vasgaard, Emily Mueller, Bishop David Zellmer, Carla Borchardt, Erik Gilbertson, Rev. Daniel Ofstehage

Staff present: Rev. Bill Tesch, Lois Borchardt, Deacon Susan Marone

Vice President Carla Borchardt called the meeting to order.

Rev. Bill Tesch opened with devotions.

**MSC to approve the agenda.  
SC.17.3.01**

Roll call was answered: When was the last time you did something for the first time?

**MSC to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2016 meeting.  
SC.17.3.02**

**Treasurer's report**

Erik Gilbertson presented the Treasurer's report. The 2016 fiscal year ended with a \$29,828 deficit. We do have the possibility to earmark endowment funds towards Pine Ridge ministry to help budget in future. Rev. Bill Tesch gave some further insight into shortfall at Pine Ridge. The shortfall in this area is not unusual, but there are items that have been addressed to help in the future.

Borchardt gave a brief description of how budget is approved and adjusted based on statements of intent.

A downward adjustment was planned for the 2017 fiscal year. A balanced budget is planned. Based on planned decreases in mission support income, salary increases were decreased to 2% from 3%, and decreases to ministry support.

Bishop Zellmer gave a report on changes to Region 3 and Lutheran Planned Giving.

**MSC to receive February Financial Statement  
SC.17.3.03**

**MSC to forward 2018 proposed mission plan to the 2017 Synod Assembly  
SC.17.3.04**

	Adopted 2017	Revised 2017	Proposed 2018
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>MISSION SUPPORT FROM CONGREGATIONS</b>	<b>1,774,680</b>	<b>1,718,057</b>	<b>1,735,238</b>
<b>Program Ministry Income</b>			
Pine Ridge Ministry Income	88,441	45,000	45,000
<b>Other Income Streams</b>			
SD Synod Mission Support	49,205	49,152	49,152
DEM Support Staff	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	7,500	7,500	7,500
SDS Transportation LLC Income	10,554	12,900	12,900
SDS Transportation/Plane Income	25,000	25,000	25,000
Misc Income	503	503	503
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,965,883</b>	<b>1,868,112</b>	<b>1,885,293</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	<b>Adopted 2017</b>	<b>Revised 2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2018</b>
<b>CHURCHWIDE MISSION</b>			
Mission Support to ELCA	798,606	773,126	780,857
% of Mission Support	45.0%	45.0%	45.0%
<b>Region III</b>	15,850	9,700	9,700
<b>SHARED MINISTRIES</b>			
<b>South Dakota Sustained Ministries</b>			
Campus Ministry	126,395	122,468	123,658
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	1,030
Lutheran Planned Giving	63,028	57,839	57,839
Heartland Ephphatha	6,201	6,009	6,067

Lutheran Youth Organization	3,605	3,605	3,605
<b>South Dakota Supported Ministries</b>			
SD Ministries Support	22,142	22,118	22,118
Luther Seminary	71,679	69,451	70,127
Lutheran Social Services	71,679	69,451	70,127
Lutherans Outdoors	35,748	34,637	34,974
Church Colleges	6,201	6,009	6,067
Association of Christian Churches	1	1	-
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
<b>Total Shared Ministries</b>	<b>407,711</b>	<b>392,620</b>	<b>395,614</b>

	<b>Adopted 2017</b>	<b>Revised 2017</b>	<b>Proposed 2018</b>
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD MINISTRIES</b>			
<b>Staff Leadership</b>			
Bishop	111,331	110,220	111,322
Associate Tesch	12,744	12,620	12,746
Associate Marone	83,085	82,278	83,101
Bishop/Associate Benefits	75,215	74,603	75,299
SDS Travel	35,201	35,201	34,899
Bishop/Assistants Travel & Cont Ed	18,800	18,800	18,800
<b>Program Ministries</b>			
Native American Ministry	118,323	72,468	73,124
Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator	15,231	15,091	15,234
Companion Synod Coordinator	11,577	11,476	11,578
<b>Support Staff and Office</b>			

<b>Support Staff Salaries/Benefits</b>	<b>144,750</b>	<b>143,392</b>	<b>144,819</b>
<b>Resource Center Supplies</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Synod Office Expenses</b>	<b>55,070</b>	<b>57,528</b>	<b>57,528</b>
<b>Augustana University</b>	<b>19,689</b>	<b>19,689</b>	<b>19,689</b>
<b>Synod Leadership</b>			
<b>Synod Council</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>Support to Ministries Committee</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>
<b>Candidacy Committee</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>
<b>Electronic Communications</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Multicultural Ministry Committee</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>
<b>Companion Synods Ministry Committee</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Evangelical Outreach Committee</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Mission Strategy Committee</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Ministry Projects</b>			
<b>Stewardship Project</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Continuing Education Projects</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Outreach Ministries</b>			
<b>Multicultural Center/Woyatan</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Mission Congregation Start-up</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Companion Synods</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,683</b>
<b>Subtotal SD Synod Ministries</b>	<b>743,716</b>	<b>692,666</b>	<b>699,122</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,965,883</b>	<b>1,868,112</b>	<b>1,885,293</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**MSC to Authorize Paul Rohde and Ann Rosendale sign checks during Deacon Susan Marone's sabbatical.**  
**SC.17.3.05**

**Mission Partner Reports**

Rob Oliver president of Augustana University reported that Stephanie Herseth Sandlin will be the new president in August. He reported that institutions similar to Augustana, across the country are challenged. Rural areas declining population and economic issues contribute to the challenges. Augustana enrollment is highest it's been in 26 years. Augustana has built a strategic plan that has helped face these challenges. They have a 99% placement rate. Deposits for 2017 are running 29% ahead of 2016. Graduate programs are growing.

Rev. Chris Croghan and Sarah Stenson from Luther House of Study thanked the council for the allocation, and reported the impact that it has made. Averaging about 600 views of the website a week. Kairos – 10 students in Kairos track, 29 students who have expressed strong interest in the program. Kairos is a means of getting a Masters of Divinity. It is an outcome based education, where students are required to demonstrate capacity through a mentored team. Ministry context is needed, students get education as they go.

**Synod Endowment Report**

Jim Schade reported that the Synod Endowment balance is a little over \$7.8 million.

**MSC to receive Synod Endowment report**  
**SC.17.3.06**

**MSC to add section VIII - Administration of Named Gifts, in the endowment policy, stating that gift can be re-directed by Synod Council if endowment committee finds, and has visited with donor, that a specific donation is no longer feasible.**  
**SC.17.3.07**

**MSC to accept into endowment policy the following statement: "To start a Named Endowment, it is expected the initial amount of gift would be \$25,000."**  
**SC.17.3.08**

Seminary debt restructuring – donor has come forward to pay interest for all pastors for first year involved in this program. Consumer credit counseling and insurance policy required to cover debt in the event of death. Thank you letters were read from those that have utilized the seminary debt reduction program.

**Staff reports:**

Deacon Susan Marone reported that scholarship campaign funds were used for emotional intelligence workshop, thank you's from attendees were read. Provided the staffing and

candidacy report. 12 congregations in call process. She gave some examples of how the Kairos program is helping congregations. Candidacy retreat in April.

Rev. Bill Tesch reported Rev. Bob Hansen will serve as interim DEM during his military chaplaincy from April to October. Table of Grace in Harrisburg has found a mission developer from the Presbyterian side. Church on the Street was authorized as a synodically authorized worshipping community but has been moved to a congregation under development. Applied for a grant with the Stewardship of Life Institute for a stewardship conspiracy, targeted at pastors and rostered leaders within first 5 years of first call. They would bring 2-3 lay leaders to learn about stewardship. South Dakota Faith and Public Life received a \$100,000 grant from Communities Against Hate, "Love your neighbor, no exceptions". Congregations can receive micro grants within this campaign.

Bishop Zellmer asked how we can be supportive to Rev. Bill on his deployment. Rev Bill's response was to love your neighbor, stand with vulnerable people, victims of racism and hate. Pray for his family.

### **Bishop Zellmer's report**

Bishop Zellmer presented on his trip to Cameroon in February. Informed council that we will re-commit to sending groups to Cameroon. Three goals going forward in Cameroon; work on building a new classroom at the seminary, seminary housing, and faculty housing. 66 roofs have gone up in Cameroon in the last 10 years. If you are considering going to Cameroon, visit with Synod, they have planning tools to help. There is visibly a larger community of faith compared to 10 years ago.

May 12<sup>th</sup>, Rob Oliver day in the synod.

Military Prayer books available for \$8, after feedback from council, it was decided that ~~they~~ the books should be available for sale at Synod Assembly.

First Chrism masses across South Dakota, Sunday evening seemed to be a good day for it. Will try again in 2018, probably about 3 around the synod, will try to involve more council presidents and members.

Official focal point of ELCA is raising up leaders and vital congregations. There will be a separately incorporated endowment and foundation at churchwide.

LPG is in transition with the resignations of J Schade and K Osborne, interviews going on during Holy Week. National search was conducted. Jim Schade was acknowledged for his work with LPG.

Church Council has been discussing a position on Standing Rock.

Moved from 8 seminaries to 7, 4 of 7 are back in original condition (in condition in which they were started). 50% enrollment of what it was. Kairos – really need to utilize this program.

Regarding sanctuary congregations there is no statute in SD or ~~federally~~ federal law that provides protection for sanctuaries. A signed and dated warrant is necessary in order to let law enforcement in. Warrants should be specific to location and person. Congregations could become part of refugee welcoming congregations. Individuals can become guardian angels, mostly pertaining to unaccompanied children. There are other resources for training and other services through the ELCA AMMPARO program. Human Rights advocates coming in from cities area for training for attorneys.

Bishop Zellmer heading to DC for advocacy days, as part of World Hunger, mostly working on the Farm Bill. Bishop invited Bill Tesch to lobby on behalf of SD synod and LSS, concurrent resolution 15. Committee killed the bill.

Invited to teach at Alaska Synod pastor's gathering. Bishop invited Synod Council members to encourage their church councils to sign up for e-news from the Synod.

Bishop thanked council members for sabbatical. Also thanked members for paying for LaDonna to attend the Bishop's Academy. Bishop will continue to work to lift up leaders within the Synod, and reports that it is an honor to serve.

Written report from Rev. Bob Hansen was reviewed. Only half of acting pastors have participated in the Listen God is Calling campaign. Report encourages congregations to participate.

Written report from Deacon Suzanne Hansen was reviewed.

Written report from Rev. Charlie Bunk was reviewed.

Written report from Rev. Karen Ressel was reviewed.

Borchardt reported on behalf of Synod Constitution review committee. At churchwide assembly, many changes were made to ELCA model constitution. Required provisions were already incorporated into SD Synod constitution. There are non required provisions. The committee is recommending revisions to forward to Synod assembly for approval-

**MSC to forward the following 18 constitutional amendments to synod assembly with recommendation for adoption:**

<b>S7.11.01</b>	<b>S11.11</b>	<b>S14.17</b>
<b>S7.22</b>	<b>S13.11</b>	<b>S14.25</b>
<b>S7.24</b>	<b>S13.12</b>	<b>S14.33</b>
<b>S7.27</b>	<b>S14.13</b>	<b>S14.34</b>
<b>S8.55</b>	<b>S14.14</b>	<b>S14.42</b>
<b>S10.03</b>	<b>S14.15</b>	<b>S14.47</b>

**SC.17.3.09**

**MSC to forward the following bylaw and continuing resolution amendments to synod assembly with recommendation for adoption:**

<b>S7.13.01</b>	<b>S9.01.11</b>	<b>S11.01.B12</b>
<b>S7.21.B02</b>	<b>S9.04.A13</b>	<b>S11.02.21</b>
<b>S7.21.C02</b>	<b>S9.04.B13</b>	<b>S11.03.31</b>
<b>S7.21.D02</b>	<b>S11.01.41</b>	<b>S11.11.A90</b>
<b>S7.40.21</b>	<b>S11.01.51</b>	<b>S12.01.13</b>
<b>S9.01.10.A</b>	<b>S11.01.61</b>	

**SC.17.3.10**

**MSC to forward the following constitutional amendments to synod assembly with recommendation for adoption:**

<b>S7.26</b>	<b>S9.06</b>	<b>S9.09</b>
<b>S8.42.F</b>	<b>S9.07</b>	
<b>S9.05</b>	<b>S9.08</b>	

**SC.17.3.11**

**MSC unanimously to adopt S8.52.A17 and S8.52.B17**

S8.52.A17 The term of the bishop shall begin the first day of September following the election, or in special circumstances at the time designated by the Synod Council.

S8.52.B17 The term of the other officers (vice president, secretary, and treasurer) shall begin at the start of new business at the Synod Council meeting following the election, or in special circumstances at the time designated by the Synod Council.

**SC.17.3.12**

**MSC to forward to Synod Assembly S9.01.12 and S9.01.13**

**SC.17.3.13**

**MSC to forward revisions S10.07.14 S10.07.20, S10.07.21, S10.07.30, S10.07.31, S10.07.40, S10.07.41 to synod assembly with recommendation for adoption.**

**SC.17.3.14**

**MSC unanimously to delete S11.01.A05**

~~S11.01.A05 The work of the Synod may from time to time require the appointment of a board, committee, commission or task force. The Synod Council may authorize the creation of such a board, committee, commission or task force, which is not specifically authorized by this Constitution. Any such authorization must be recorded in the minutes and reported to the Synod Assembly at its next meeting. Such authorization must include a mission statement, which shall be both concise and complete in nature, a starting date and either a terminating date or a date for reauthorization and review by the Synod Council, an estimate of the necessary funding required to complete the work through the authorized period, and a budget for expenditure of the same. No such authorization shall extend for more than three years from the date thereof. Membership and leadership of any such board, committee, commission, or task force shall be by appointment of a standing board of the Synod Council at the recommendation of the Bishop.~~

**SC.17.3. 15**

**MSC to forward revisions to S11.01.11 and S11.03.34 to synod assembly with recommendation for adoption.**

**SC.17.3. 16**

**MSC to empower congregations to adopt seasonal member voting in their constitutions under \*S8.02.e.**

**SC.17.3. 17**

Officer term limit and financial authority of synod council discussions tabled.

Jerry Soholt introduced as new Development Director at Lutherans Outdoors.

Travel vouchers were distributed.

#### **Roster Matters:**

**MSC to grant Rev. Natanael (Nate) Lizarazo On-Leave-From-Call status effective 9/1/2016**

**SC.17.3. 18**

**MSC to grant Rev. Lori Marty On-Leave-From-Call status effective 11/7/2016**

**SC.17.3. 19**

**MSC to grant Rev. Mary Ann Nelson-Loefke retirement status effective 4/1/2017. (moved from ~~retirement~~ disability status)**

**SC.17.3.20**

**MSC to grant Rev. Anna Peck retirement status effective 6/1/2017**

**SC.17.3. 21**

#### **Congregational Matters**

**MSC to forward the resolution Rosebud Lutheran Church, Bison, SD, to synod assembly**

**WHEREAS**, Rosebud Lutheran Church (Bison, South Dakota) has formed the Prairie Fellowship Parish with American Lutheran Church (Bison, South Dakota) and Indian Creek Lutheran Church (Bison, South Dakota); and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Rosebud Lutheran Church have requested the Western North Dakota Synod release the Rosebud Lutheran Church to the South Dakota Synod; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the South Dakota Synod join the Western North Dakota Synod

in celebrating with Rosebud Lutheran Church and the Prairie Fellowship Parish, this new parish alignment and with blessings welcome Rosebud Lutheran Church to serve with their brothers and sisters in Christ of the South Dakota Synod. Be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the bishop of the South Dakota Synod is authorized to sign the appropriate documents and take other necessary actions to transfer Rosebud Lutheran Church to the South Dakota Synod.

**SC.17.3.-22**

**MSC to appoint Sandy Cheney to a second 3 year term to St. Dymas Associate council**

**SC.17.3. 23**

**MSC to appoint Marge Hegge to Luther Seminary Board of Directors**

**SC.17.3. 24**

Rev. Bill Tesch reported on the proposed Lakota Job Corp. Pine Ridge had become a dependency ministry, Rev. Karen Ressel has toured around the Midwest speaking about the retreat center. Rev. Ressel is working towards building capacity and skill among the people of Pine Ridge with -some success given the limited budget so far.

**MSC to authorize the Lutheran/Lakota Job Corp Pilot Program and to authorize Rev. Karen Ressel to direct the program and hire employees.**

**SC.17.3. 25**

Sawyer Vanden Heuvel presented a proposal for a synod wide app and costs associated with it. Could be a good resource for quick information.

**MSC to authorize development of SD Synod app using monies from Kittelson endowment fund**

**SC.17.3. 26**

**MSC to forward resolution stating “Expenditures for seminary scholarships be included in the goals for the Listen God is Calling appeal”, to synod assembly**

When the publicity materials for the “Listen God Is Calling” were prepared there was a consensus understanding that Seminary Scholarships and Debt Reduction were part of the goals of the appeal.

- The video clearly states that seminary scholarships and debt reduction are part of the goals of the appeal to provide for the next generation of rostered leaders.
- The prospectus clearly states on page 4: “Increase the Synod’s capacity to provide seminary scholarships to qualified candidates for ministry”.
- Insert # 3, to be used by congregations prior to their commitment Sunday states: “Increased seminary scholarship support”.

- The brochure used on commitment Sunday states: “We, in South Dakota, have nurtured and provided more people into called ministry than any other Synod in the ELCA. We also provide more seminary scholarships. But the work is not done.”
- I have stated to congregations and individuals that both seminary scholarships and debt reduction are important goals of the “Listen God Is Calling” appeal.

A concern has been noted that seminary scholarships were not specifically listed as a category in the resolution authorizing the appeal adopted at the June 13-14, 2014 SD Synod Assembly. This needs to be corrected so that expenditures for seminary scholarships are included in the goals of the appeal. I ask that the following resolution be adopted by the South Dakota Synod Council:

Resolved that expenditures for seminary scholarships be included in the goals for the “Listen God Is Calling” appeal.

**SC.17.3. 27**

**MSC to add the statement “Synod Assembly Parliamentary Procedure shall be in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order latest edition, unless otherwise ordered by the assembly” to the proposed Synod Assembly Rules of Procedure.**

**SC.17.3. 28**

Resolutions vs. Memorials were discussed. Resolutions are brought to synod assembly, Memorials are brought to churchwide assembly. A document from Secretary Boerger was distributed.

Rev. Bill Tesch led closing devotions.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

Synod Assembly: June 2-3, 2017, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls,

Synod Council: June 3, 2017 after close of Synod Assembly, devotions by Doug Olawsky

Executive Committee: August 17, 2017, 3:00 pm, AU President’s house, Sioux Falls

Synod Council Retreat: August 17, 2017, 6:30 pm (AU President’s house) and August 18, 2017 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (Haugo Room), Sioux Falls

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Mueller, Recorder